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175 Her greatest disaster came in 1795 when, together with Poland, she was partitioned between Russia and Prussia. The greater part of ethnographic Lithuania was given to Russia and the lesser part, to Prussia.

Even though the Lithuanian-Polish state collapsed, the Lithuanian nation continued to exist, although it was badly impaired and its size diminished by more than two thirds.

642 Lithuanians were under the stern rule of Czarist Russia
648 for 123 years until, on the 16th of February, 1918, the National Council in Vilnius (Vilna) declared Lithuania an independent state, with ancient Vilnius as its capital.[7] On July 12, 1920, during the war between the Soviets and the Poles, Lithuania signed in Moscow with the Soviet government a peace treaty by which the city of Vilnius with the region about it was assigned to Lithuania.[8]

726 But the old Polish scheme began to manifest itself again.
648 After defeating the Soviet troops near Warsaw, the Poles appeared on the southern Lithuanian frontier and precipitated fighting with the Lithuanians. Finding the going more difficult than they expected, the Poles started negotiations which were carried on under the supervision of the League of Nations and resulted in the conclusion of the Treaty of Suvalkai[9] on October 7, 1920.[10] Two days later, however, the special Polish army, commanded by General Zeligowski, took the Lithuanians completely by surprise and occupied the city of Vilnius and the Vilnius region, comprising almost one
648 third of ethnographic Lithuania. This treacherous act re-

[7] See Appendix A for the text of the Declaration of Independence.

[8] Pranas Dailide, *Lietuvos Sutartys su Svetimomis Valstybemis*, Uzsieniu Reikalu Ministerijos leidinys, Tomas I, 1919–29. Recueil des traites conclus par la Lithuanie avec les pays étrangers, Public par le Ministère des Affaires Étrangeres. I (1919–29), 30–52. See Appendix B for the extract from the text of the peace treaty with Russia.

[9] Dailide, *op. cit.*, pp. 58–61.

[10] See Appendix C for the text of the Treaty of Suvalkai.

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neutrality toward Poland in the hour of distress during the German-Polish war.

On March 22, 1939, Germany, under the threat of invasion, forced Lithuania to surrender Klaipeda. After Poland collapsed in September, 1939, Soviet Russia seized Vilnius and, according to the Mutual Assistance Pact of October 10, 1939,[17] returned it to Lithuania together with 2,569 square miles of territory. On June 15, 1940, Soviet Russia, subsequent to its ultimatum, invaded and occupied Lithuania. Almost exactly a year later, on June 23, 1941, the Lithuanians seized an opportunity to start a violent uprising against the Russians, but already the Germans were pouring in from the south and west. They overran Lithuania, dispersed the newly organized Lithuanian government, and started a new period of oppression, Nazi style.

THE POPULATION PATTERN

The Lithuanians were famous from ancient times for their physical health, strength, and vitality. Even today there is still a substantial percentage of elderly persons who have never taken medicine and have never been seriously ill. In general, Lithuanians are farm-loving people, industrious and peaceful. Being great individualists, the Lithuanians prefer to live on farms because it keeps them close to nature and at the same time affords every man a greater chance of being "his own boss." The cities of Lithuania are therefore inhabited by minorities, mostly Jews. Even in present-day Lithuania, the towns do not show the real character of the nation, as the influx from the farms to the cities has never been strong enough to change the political, economic, and social conditions that have existed for several centuries.

[17] See Appendix E for the text.